GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2786
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
BIDS INVITED BY PETRONET LNG LIMITED
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petronet LNG Limited has invited global bids for the transportation of Liquified Natural Gas into India from U.A.E.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bids floated have imposed tough conditions thereby making it impossible for any Indian Shipping Company to enter the LNG transportation trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether his Ministry have received some protest notes from the Ministry of Surface Transport against the criteria fixed for the LNG transportation in the bids;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) whether some amendments have since been made in the bids so that the Indian shipping companies could also enter the LNG transportation trade; (h) if so, the details thereof; and (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. However, Petronet LNG Ltd. has invited global bids for pre-qualification of ship owners and ship operators for transportation of 7.5 million tonnes per annum of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) from Qatar.The global bids for pre-qualification were called for through advertisement in leading newspapers. The pre-qualification document has been issued to the concerned parties.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e)&(f) The Ministry of Surface Transport have requested that Indian Shipping Companies be allowed to bid for pre-qualification either on their own or on the basis of tie-up with experienced LNG ship owners or operators.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The terms of the pre-qualification document have already made it mandatory for the bidder to bid along with an Indian Shipping Company thereby ensuring the association of an Indian Shipping Company in the LNG shipping arrangement of Petronet LNG Ltd.